Leadership stories: Recognising and appreciating the student’s journey
Edwin Giovanni Torres Esquivel, University of Tasmania

The Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Program is a 3-tiered leadership program open to all students at the University of Tasmania. The program aims to enable students to firstly identify with leadership, then build their skills in ways that allow them to purposefully contribute to their communities. To receive recognition for their achievements, the program requires students to articulate their learning and contributions through sharing a personal leadership narrative with program coordinators, industry and University Leaders.

The tiers; 1: Discover your leadership potential; 2: Contribute through experiences, and 3: Achieve the Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Award, are scaffolded to support students to develop a personal leadership philosophy, which then becomes a framework for sharing their leadership narrative. Enhancing their capacity to build and share a leadership narrative has enhanced participants’ self-awareness, self-reflection and ultimately their graduate employability.

This presentation will share the narratives of three successful participants from very different backgrounds: An Aboriginal student who drew on her experiences as a peer mentor; an international medical student working in a regional community; and a mature age student who exhibited exceptional time management and domestic ‘engineering’ skills by balancing her studies and extraordinary home responsibilities. Their stories demonstrate how the program supports a range of expressions of leadership that all lead to significant personal and professional growth. The narratives showcase the range of strengths and skills exhibited by these individuals and the impact of these on both their communities and their own definitions of success.

Learning outcomes
- How a scaffolded leadership program can support students to recognise their leadership potential;
- The importance of students’ self-discovery of their leadership philosophy and impact on others through the reflective process;
- Empowering students to see their actions as contributing to social transformation;
- How stories can assist in articulating employability and twenty-first century skills.

Presenter
Edwin Giovanni Torres Esquivel, University of Tasmania

Edwin Giovanni Torres Esquivel is the Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Program (VCLP) Coordinator at the University of Tasmania, a role that he has held for two years. Prior to this he held a range of roles across the University, each with a focus on enhancing the student experience. As Orientation Coordinator in 2015, he liaised with staff across two states and five campuses to ensure students received a warm welcome to the University. It is this commitment to creating a distinctive student experience that he brings to his current role. Edwin enjoys the opportunity to work with the students throughout the VCLP program, and finds it rewarding to see them progress and grow as leaders and citizens.